

AUG 28 2007

REMARKS

Applicants' agents thank very much the Examiner and the Supervisory Examiner for the telephone interview of August 14, 2007. During the interview, we discussed the definition of the visitor based network (VBN) recited in the claims of the present application. We appreciate the Examiner's indication that claim 1 as amended on July 13, 2007 has overcome the references cited. The Examiner has indicated that a further search is needed.

In order to have the claims currently on file considered further, Applicant is concurrently filing a Request for Continued Examination.

Applicant has amended claim 4 by changing "a virtual local area network" to "the virtual local area network (VLAN)" in view of claim 1. Also, Applicant has added new dependent claims 50 and 51 to recite registration of the user on the VBN. Support for these new claims can be found in the application as filed, e.g., in the section of "Creating a VLAN Group" on page 72 of the specification.

The present invention as recited in claim 1 provides a method which configures a network infrastructure of a VBN to support a group of users in the VBN in response to a request from a user of the VBN, allows other users of the VBN to join the group by configuring the network infrastructure of the VBN to support joining users by configuring a switch port that a joining user is connected to with a VLAN associated with the group. These features are also recited in computer readable medium claim 25 and server claim 28.

The present application describes that "IVLAN is a communications technology that enables devices communicating with the TCP/IP protocol (the communications protocol of the Internet) to gain secure private and group access to any foreign TCP/IP network that has IVLAN installed. A foreign TCP/IP network which allows access on a temporary basis is often termed a Visitor Based Network (VBN), and is typically composed of core and leaf switches which route messages to and from client devices" (page 8, lines 1-6), and "The primary objective is to provide guests

with the ability to log into the Internet from their hotel rooms without having to modify their personal computer network settings. ... a business traveler requiring access to her companies email server from their hotel room. After connecting her laptop 101 to the hotel room's network jack 102..." (page 18, lines 4-16). A VBN is the provision of Internet access for mobile computer users in need of temporary service in public places. Thus, in a VBN, users of the VBN may randomly come and go, and may not be previously known to the VBN.

Because of these VBN features, no prior art reference has provided or suggested to provide a mechanism that allows establishment of a VLAN on a VBN in response to a request by a user of the VBN.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 25 and 28 and their dependent claims 2-6, 10, 11, 29-32, 35, 36, and 48-51 are patentable under 35 USC 103 and other provisions.

Early favorable reconsideration of the application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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